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OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
PESIN, BORIS M				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2174				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

patentdocket@oblon.com

oblonpat@oblon.com

jgardner@oblon.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/965,073

Applicant(s)

WAKITA ET AL.

Examiner

Boris Pesin

Art Unit

2174

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 September 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35, 37, 38 and 40-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-31 and 52-63 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 32-35, 37, 38 and 40-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

This communication is responsive to the response filed 09/19/2007.

Claims 1-35, 37-38, and 40-63 are pending in this application and claims 1-31 and 52- 63 are withdrawn. Claims 32, 35, 41, 49, 50, and 51 are independent claims. In the response filed 09/19/2007, claims 32, 35, 41, 44, 49, 50, and 51 were amended. This action is made Final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 32, 35, 41, 44, 49, 50, and 51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The Applicant has amended all the independent claims to recite "objects which **no portions** thereof actually exist." However, there is no support for this added limitation in the specification as filed. In the Applicant's arguments filed 9/19/2007, the Applicant alleges that support for this limitation can be found on page 62 lines 10-19 and Figure 38 of the specification and that "a node indicating an actually existing instance object is denoted by an icon 'occupied' and a node

Art Unit: 2174

indicating an object that is not actually held, but could be held, is denoted by the icon 'vacant.'" (See page 28). However, Figure 38 also shows names to the right of the 'vacant' term. Therefore, there is some information regarding the object stored, that information being the name.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 32-35, 37-38, and 40-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brozowski et al. (US 6559871) in view of Berner et al. (US 5907846).

In regards to claim 32, Brozowski teaches an object content structure management method for managing a content structure of a root object, wherein

Art Unit: 2174

said root object includes attribute data corresponding to a media file,
comprising:

expressing the content structure of said root object by a tree-structure set membership consisting of one or more objects, said one or more objects comprising one or more parent objects and one or more child objects, each child object respectively corresponding to one of said one or more parent objects (Column 5, Line 51- Column 6 Line 5) ;

defining an attribute capable of being held by said parent and child objects for each of a plurality of object types and each of the plurality of object types by a schema definition (Column 6 Lines 24-64);

managing a list of child objects capable of being held by said root object and defined by said schema definition (Column 6 Lines 24-64); and

sequentially managing a list of first child objects of one of said one or more parent objects as a start object, a list of the first child objects of each start object held by the list of the first child objects, and a second list of child objects of each first child object held by a second list of child objects of the first child objects, thereby managing a content structure of said start object (See Figure 2 and Column 5, Line 51- Column 6 Line 5), wherein:

said first and second lists of child objects hold instances of all objects actually existing as said child objects and placeholders indicating objects that do not exist, but which can exist as said child objects (Column 13, Lines 21-48);

each child object holds determination information for determining whether a certain object is an instance of an actually existing child object or a

Art Unit: 2174

placeholder indicating an object that does not exist, but which can exist as a child object (Column 13, Lines 21-48).

Brozowski does not specifically teach that no portion of an object exists but can exist. Berner teaches that at placeholder object is created when the additional data has not been created (See Column 3, Lines 62-67). It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to modify Brozowski with the teachings of Berner and include way to represent an object when it has not been created with the motivation to provide the user with a better understanding of what object will or can be loaded instead of the placeholder.

In regards to claim 33, Brozowski teaches an object content structure management method according to claim 32, wherein: said placeholders indicate objects that can exist as said child objects and are managed one by one for each object of a same type (Column 13, Lines 21-48).

In regards to claim 34, Brozowski teaches an object content structure management method according to claim 32, further comprising: managing a plurality of objects including an exclusively selectable object that is capable of being held by a certain parent object by a schema definition of said parent object as a choice list besides said list of child objects (See Figure 2);

managing an object selected from among a plurality of choices by a list of child objects of a parent object and managing objects other than said selected object of the choices as said placeholders indicating objects that can exist as child objects in the choice list of said selected object (See Figure 2).

In regards to claim 35, Brozowski teaches an object content structure display method for displaying a content structure of a root object, wherein said root object includes attribute data corresponding to a media file, comprising:

expressing the content structure of said object by a tree-structure set membership consisting of one or more objects, said one or more objects comprising one or more parent objects and one or more child objects, each child object respectively corresponding to one of said one or more parent objects (Column 5, Line 51- Column 6 Line 5);

defining an attribute capable of being held by said parent and child objects for each of a plurality of object types and a type of said object by a schema definition, wherein (Column 6 Lines 24-64):

objects held by said root object as child objects are expressed by a tree structure (Column 5, Line 51- Column 6 Line 5);

a character string representing this object type is displayed on each node of the tree structure to display a structure of the object (See Figure 2); and

a type and a value of the attribute capable of being held by an object selected from the displayed tree structure are displayed (See Figure 2);

wherein not only instance object actually held by the root object, but also placeholders indicating objects that are not, but can be held based on the schema definition, are simultaneously displayed in the tree structure one by one for each object type (Column 13, Lines 21-48), and the instance objects and the place holders are discriminated by different icons and then displayed (Column 13, Lines 21-48).

Brozowski does not specifically teach that no portion of an object exists but can exist. Berner teaches that at placeholder object is created when the additional data has not been created (See Column 3, Lines 62-67). It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to modify Brozowski with the teachings of Berner and include way to represent an object when it has not been created with the motivation to provide the user with a better understanding of what object will or can be loaded instead of the placeholder.

In regards to claim 37, Brozowski teaches an object content structure display method according to claim 35, wherein: said tree structure is expressed hierarchically for objects to be held by said root object serving as a root configured to further hold objects (See Figure 2); and structures below the actually existing instance objects are displayed up to a hierarchical level designated at a time of hierarchically displaying said tree structure and display of structures below the designated hierarchical level is omitted (See Figure 2, the user chooses which nodes to see or not).

In regards to claim 38, Brozowski teaches An object content structure display method according to claim 35, wherein: any one of a plurality of types of objects may be held under a schema definition of types of child objects capable of being held by the root object (See Figure 2 and Column 13, Lines 21-48); all objects of choices are displayed in a tree structure as child nodes and the objects actually selected and held among the choices and the unselected choices are discriminated from each other by different icons and then displayed (See Figure 2 and Column 13, Lines 21-48).

In regards to claim 40, Brozowski teaches an object content structure display method according to claim 35, wherein: a plurality of child objects of a same type may be held under a schema definition of types of the child objects capable of held by the root object (Column 13, Lines 21-48); and one of a maximum number and a minimum number of the child objects capable of being held are displayed in said tree structure (See Figure 2).

In regards to claim 41, Brozowski teaches an object content structure editing method for editing a content structure of a root object, wherein said root object includes attribute data corresponding to a media file, comprising:

expressing the content structure of said object by a tree-structure set membership consisting of one or more objects, said one or more objects comprising one or more parent objects and one or more child objects, each child object respectively corresponding to one of said one or more parent objects (Column 5, Line 51- Column 6 Line 5);

defining an attribute capable of being held by said parents and child objects for each of a plurality of object types and a type of said object by a schema definition (Column 6 Lines 24-64), wherein

objects held by said parent object as child objects are expressed by a tree structure (See Figure 2);

a character string representing the object type is displayed on each node of the tree structure to display a structure of the object (See Figure 2);

a type and a value of an attribute capable of being held by an object selected from the displayed tree structure are displayed (See Figure 2 and Column 13, Lines 21-48);

and a value to be changed is inputted and a change is indicated for said displayed attribute value, and the attribute value of the object is updated to the input value (Column 13, Lines 49-58); and

an addition is indicated after designating one dummy object indicating types of objects which do not actually exist but can be held (Column 13, Lines 21-48, and Column 13, Lines 49-58).

Brozowski does not specifically teach that no portion of an object exists but can exist. Berner teaches that at placeholder object is created when the additional data has not been created (See Column 3, Lines 62-67). It would have been obvious at the time of the invention to modify Brozowski with the teachings of Berner and include way to represent an object when it has not been created with the motivation to provide the user with a better understanding of what object will or can be loaded instead of the placeholder.

In regards to claim 42, Brozowski teaches an object content structure editing apparatus according to claim 41, wherein: an instance addition is indicated after one of the objects existing in the tree structure is designated (Column 13, Lines 49-58); and an instance object of the same type as a type of the designated object is created and the object of the same type is displayed as a fraternal node of said designated object in the tree structure (Column 5, Line 51- Column 6 Line 5 and Column 13, Lines 49-58).

In regards to claim 43, Brozowski teaches an object content structure editing method according to claim 42, wherein: an object permitted to be held as a plural by the schema definition is discriminated from an object prohibited from being held as a plural by the schema definition using different display colors or different icons prior to being displayed; and instance addition indication is not accepted in cases of objects prohibited from being held as a plural (Column 13, Lines 49-58).

In regards to claim 44, Brozowski teaches an object content structure editing method according to claim 41, wherein: said designated dummy object is changed to an actual instance; and an icon of said designated dummy object is changed to an icon indicating the actual instance in the tree structure (See Figure 2 and Column 13, Lines 21-48).

In regards to claim 45, Brozowski teaches an object content structure editing method according to claim 44, wherein: not only said designated dummy object but also ancestor objects of said designated dummy object are dummy objects (Column 13, Lines 21-48); and the ancestor objects are sequentially changed to instances (Column 13, Lines 21-48, and Column 13, Lines 49-58).

In regards to claim 46, Brozowski teaches an object content structure editing method according to claim 41, wherein:

deletion is indicated after designating the object selected from the displayed tree structure (See Figure 2, the user is able to select which items to view or not using the + sign);

said designated object is held as a plural (See Figure 2);

structures below the objects are deleted and display of the objects is deleted from the tree structure (See Figure 2, the user is able to select which items to view or not using the + sign);

the deletion is indicated after designating the actually existing object and said designated object is a single object (See Figure 2);

and nodes below the designated object are changed to dummy objects and display icons of the nodes in the tree structure are changed (Column 13, Lines 21-48, and Column 13, Lines 49-58).

In regards to claim 47, Brozowski teaches an object content structure editing method according to claim 41, wherein: a selection change is indicated after one of dummy objects indicating unselected choices is designated (See Figure 2); and the objects selected before the selection change are changed to the objects indicating choices and said designated object is changed to a selected object (See Figure 2, and Column 13, Lines 21-48, and Column 13, Lines 49-58).

In regards to claim 48, Brozowski-Brener teach all the limitations of claim 41. Brozowski-Brener do not specifically teach that edited object contents are outputted by a description language, the description language being an MPEG-7 description language or an XML description language. Official notice is given that it is well known in the art to output contents of an object in XML description language. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Brozowski-Brener and to output contents of an object in XML description language with the motivation to provide the user with greater flexibility.

Art Unit: 2174

Claim 49 is in the same context as claim 32; therefore it is rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 50 is in the same context as claim 35; therefore it is rejected under similar rationale.

Claim 51 is in the same context as claim 41; therefore it is rejected under similar rationale.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 32-35, 37-38, and 40-51 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory

Art Unit: 2174

action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Boris Pesin whose telephone number is (571) 272-4070. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday except every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/B. P./

/Steven P Sax/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2174